

The Morris Goodwin House  
Cocked Hat - Fort Elfsborg Road  
Elsinboro Township  
Salem County, New Jersey  
SALEM VICINITY

HABS-NJ-690

HABS  
NJ  
17-SAL.V.  
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAN & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS  
N.J.17-SAL.V.  
6-

The Morris-Goodwin House  
Cocked Hat - Fort Elfsborg Road  
Elsinboro Township  
Salem County, New Jersey

Owners and Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim C. Smith

Date of Erection: About 1745; with subsequent additions

Architect: Unknown

Builder: William Goodwin (1723-1801)

Present Condition: Original well preserved

Number of Stories: Two and a half over cellar

Materials of Construction

Foundation: Brick

Exterior walls: Timber frame clapboarded, rear wing of  
brick

Interior walls: Board partitions

Chimneys: Brick, built into inside of gable end walls

Roof: Gable and leanto, all wood shingled

Historical Data:

The identification of this house as above is a matter of deduction from the evidence derived from search of title to the property as recorded in the County archives.

The 88 acre tract of land on which it stands was evidently part of that 1200 acre plantation "called Elsinburgh", bounded north by Richard Woodnutt and John Thompson, east by Isaac Smart, Thomas Thompson and John Mason, south by Locust Creek and west by Delaware River, with adjacent 400 acres of marsh and islands, which were conveyed by Samuel Carpenter of Philadelphia, merchant, and wife Hannah, to Rothra Morris of Salem County, West New Jersey, yeoman, for 200 Pounds by deed of 20 November 1701.(a)

(a) Recorded in Salem Deeds, Book No. 7, p. 128, now deposited in Office of Secretary of State, Trenton, Abstract publ. in N. J. Archives XXI, 632.

The grantee Rothra Morris (b) of Elsinburgh Salem County, by his will dated 20th of 11th month 1702/3 and proved 21 September 1704, devised to his wife Jael "My whole plantation and tract of 1200 acres of land where I now dwell, also my tract of 400 acres of land, with all the houses, barns (etc.) during her natural life if she remains my widow\* so long, and after her decease my will and mind is that both my tracts of land aforementioned shall be equally divided among my five sons as followeth (and) Jonathan, Joseph and Joshua shall have 20 acres of fast land more than their two brothers because I think their parts are somewhat worn out." To his son, Lewis, he devised "his part of land where Henry Walmsley now possesseth, and his plantation, his house and improvements." (c) The devisee Lewis Morris being but seven years old at the date of this will, the farm and its house devised to him were then in possession of a tenant as mentioned in the will.

By a deed of division, dated 28 February 1731 in which it is recited that Rothra Morris of Elsinboro devised his "mansion house, farm or plantation called Elsenborough" (d) in Salem County, by his will of 11th mo. 20th 1702/3 to his five sons, Jonathan, Joseph, Lewis, David and Joshua and the survivors

(b) Rudra (Rothra) Morris, born about 1658 in Pembrokehire, Wales, son of Lewis, emigrated to America, arriving at Philadelphia on 9 mo. 1st 1683, and "after some time came to Salem to dwell and so from thence to Elsenburgh to inhabitt, after which time the said Rudra took to wife Jael Batty" by permission of Friends Meeting granted 11. 27. 1688, which Jael was born about 1658 in Humford, Yorkshire, dau. of Richard, sailed from Hull, 3 mo. 8th 1686 and arrived in New Castle Penna. in 5 mo. 1686. Issue born in Elsinburgh: Jonathan b. 12. 16. 1690, Joseph b. 6. 6. 1 92, Sarah b. 12. 16. 1693, Lewis b. 11. 23. 1695, David b. 12. 8. 1697, Joshua b. 5. 14. 1700 and Jane b. 4. 4. 1702. (Records of Salem Monthly Meeting, publ. 1938 in Hinshaw, Encycl. of American Quaker Genealogy, II, 35.)

\*Jane Morris was granted license on 6. 26. 1706 to marry John Lewis, per minutes of Salem Monthly Meeting of Friends Cited.

(c) From the original will, now filed in Unrecorded Wills vol. 12, p. 343, in Office of Secretary of State. An abstract is publ. in N. J. Archives XXIII, 329.

(d) See Jos. S. Sickler, The Old Houses of Salem County, 1934, p. 32, Redroe Morris House, Elsinboro 1688 (sic) with photo. The account is not based on search of title (which shows that Morris did not acquire the plantation, with or without a house, until 1702) and the house is not to be confused with the one here considered. L.D.C.

equally, as above cited, and that the sons Jonathan and Joshua died unmarried and without issue, two of the surviving brothers Joseph and David Morris, of Elsinboro, conveyed his share to the third, Lewis Morris of same place, being (1) a 203 acre tract of fast land bounded west by land of said David Morris, north by the Back Marsh, east by William Hancock and Devil's Swamp plantation, and south by marsh, (2) 111 acres of the Home Marsh, (3) 181 acres of Locus Island marsh and all of Rich Island adjoining, (4) one-third of a 105 acre marsh held in common. Included was the "Mansion House and out-houses and all and singular the Barns, buildings, orchards" etc.

Lewis<sup>2</sup> Morris (e) to whom was allotted his share in his father's 1600 acre plantation in 1731, died there in Elsinboro Township between 4 of 11th mo. 1739 and 18 July 1740, the dates of signing and of proving his will. He devised to his wife Grace one-third of his personal estate and 50 Pounds from the residue thereof, (with the profits from a certain mill and plantation in Elsinboro which his brother David Morris had devised to his son David by will 28 Jan. 1733/4, until the orphaned nephew arrived at 18 years), with the use of the "Inner cellar, one inner room and one inner chamber," and of all the "plantation I now dwell on" during her widowhood or until their eldest daughter Sarah Morris arrived at the age of 21 years.

He devised to his "second eldest daughter Mary Morris, her heirs and assigns, a certain part and parcel of my plantation I now dwell on, beginning at a certain division ditch between Nathan Smart's and my land, thence along a certain cross ditch dividing the drained marsh until it intersects a certain old ditch adjoining unto the woodland, thence along said old ditch or bank a southeast course about 85 paces to a maple near a little bridge, thence a southerly course 40 feet distant from the east end of my dwelling house along by the east end of my hop garden, thence a straight course until it intersects with a lane, thence down said lane, it being a division, until it comes to the end of said lane, thence along the fence leading down to the end of a certain causeway leading to Rich Island, so along the causeway and road until it intersects with a certain creek that divides said plantation and marsh adjoining from Rich Island, thence along said Creek until it intersects with the division line of Samuel Mason's land, which said Easternmost part of my plantation land and marsh thereunto belonging, together with one full half part of Rich Island and marsh, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, equally to be divided....., also my right

(e) Lewis Morris, b. 11. 23. 1695 in Elsinboro, Salem Co., 3rd of the 5 sons of Rudra and Jael (Battey) Morris, was reported married to Grace Woodnut per minutes of Salem Mo. Mtg. of 4. 29. 1719. She was b. 5. 8. 1703, dau. of Richard and Mary Woodnut (Hinshaw, Encycl. of Amer. Quaker Genealogy, II, 35, 88.

or third part of a certain land and marsh called Money Island, she paying, when she arrives to the age of 21 years, unto my eldest daughter Sarah Morris the sum of 30 Pounds." To his eldest daughter, Lewis Morris Devised the western most part of his plantation, with the other half of Rich Island and marsh, and the residue of his estate, real and personal, when she arrived at 21, she paying 100 Pounds to her sisters, Grace, Jane, Jayl, Ann and Rebeckah Morris as they arrive at 18 years of age. (f)

Mary<sup>3</sup> Morris, the second daughter of Lewis and Jane (Fetters) Morris of Elsinborough Township, and devisee of the eastern half of his plantation in 1740 as above, married William Goodwin, the license bearing date 13 February 1744, and "they lived in Elsinborough on her share of her father's estate."\* Her elder sister Sarah Morris, to whom was devised the western half of the paternal plantation (and its house) married in 1745 Thomas Goodwin, brother of said William. "Thomas and his wife lived on her property that she had inherited from her father in Elsinborough until 1756, when they sold it to Samuel Abbott and purchased the property on Broadway Street in the town of Salem from John Mason and removed in 1757 to Salem and there ended their days"\* leaving no issue.

William Goodwin(g) of Elsinboro, Salem County, evidently built his homestead (here surveyed) after his marriage to the daughter and heiress Mary Morris in 1744 as abovesaid, who died in 1776. By his will of 7th of 9th mo. 1801, proved 1st October next, having survived his sons, he bequeathed to his grandson William<sup>4</sup> Goodwin "all the plantation whereon I now live." Previously, by will had devised to his brother Lewis<sup>3</sup>

(f) From the original will, nor filed in the office of the office of the Secretary of State. An abstract is publ. in N. J. Archives, XXX, 348.

\*Shourds, History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony (Salem County), 1876, pp 82-84, Goodwin Family.

(g) John Goodwin, b. 10. 25. 1680 in the parish of St. Buttolph, Aldgate, London, came to Penna. 1701 and to Salem, N.J. 1702, mar. 10. 4. 1705 Susannah Smith, dau. of John Smith formerly of Krindall parish, County of Kent, England, and had issue: John b. 2. 29. 1707, Richard b. 7. 4. 1709, Mary b. 9. 1. 1710, Joseph b. 11. 21. 1713, John b. 10. 17. 1716, Thomas b. 6. 10. 1721, d. 12. 13. 1805, and William b. 3. 25. 1723, d. 1801, who mar. Mary Morris 1744, (contrary to Friends' discipline) and had issue: - John b. 6. 19. 1745, Lewis b. 11. 9. 1748, d. 1795-6 (who mar. 1. Rebecca Zane and 2. Rachel Nicholson), Susannah b. 12. 20. 1750, Mary b. 2. 17. 1756 and William b. 2. 18. 1758. (Hinshaw, cited above, p. 28. cf. Shourds, Hist. and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony, 1876, pp 82-84).

Goodwin his title to "that land or plantation that was my mother's in Elsinborough." Lewis Goodwin becoming thereby, sole heir of their Mother Mary (Morris) Goodwin subject to his father's interest, devised to his son William<sup>4</sup> Goodwin "All that plantation that belonged to my mother in her lifetime in Elsinborough, "by his will of 9 February 1795, proved 9 April 1796.

In the report of the division of the real estate of William<sup>4</sup> Goodwin deceased late of Salem County, dated 9 June 1840, a 109 acre tract, no. 3, was set off to his son William T. Goodwin, "with all the improvements and buildings thereon, except the building on the north side of the road, known by the name of the Slaughter House that was hereinbefore assigned to Lewis Goodwin who is directed to move the same off the premises."

William T. Goodwin to whom was allotted the homestead in 1840 as abovesaid, conveyed the same to Johnson Freas of the city of Salem for \$9750 by his deed of 28 February 1859, and Freas evidently occupied the same at the date of his deed conveying the farm to Joseph Foster, also of Elsinboro, on 27 November 1861. Foster sold it to Biddle Hiles of Salem by deed of 25 October 1894, who in turn passed it to Albert W. Sherron of Salem on 7 November next. Sherron, by his will of 2 April 1909 devised his real estate to his sons Harry G., Clifford M. and William T. Sherron, and the last two came into joint possession of this farm. The executors of the will of each gave deeds on 23 February 1935, conveying the farm to Carlton G. Coleman of Carneys Point, Salem County. The last named passed title to Dora C. Smith by his deed of 21 October 1939, and it is vested in her and her husband, Ephraim C. Smith, at the time of our survey of the house in February 1941.

Reference:

Search of title by William Brown, H.A.B.S. research editor, reported 14 February 1941.

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer